

## **Parent Comments from "Feedback for the Principal" 2002/03**

(Note: Two comments were edited, removing some information regarding specific issues)

"Keep up the good work! We appreciate all that you do."

"We're very happy with the school community at Floral."

"As superficial as this sounds....I love the fact that you are so tall! My children really look up to you. Your presence and attitude show them that treating each other with respect and kindness is the backbone to everything. We love being part of such a great community. Thank you very much."

"I would just like to take a moment to thank you, Mr. Sawyer and staff for another great year. I, as a parent, am disheartened by many of the "parental" attitudes I hear in town. I have yet to understand parents' needs to choose teachers and/or classmates for their children on a yearly basis. I applaud both you and Mrs. Lizotte for taking a firmer stand on this issue. I hope as my children's years continue through the Shrewsbury School System teachers get back the respect they rightly deserve."

"Concerned about communication with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and with 5<sup>th</sup> grade supervision and communication."

"I happened to catch the students' performance recently on the Shrewsbury Cable station in front of the school committee. Not only was I incredibly moved by the students' performances, I was exceptionally impressed with Joe Sawyer's professionalism and ability to articulate his thoughts. Made me feel very proud and honored to be living in Shrewsbury."

"I am a volunteer in the cafeteria. I love to see Mr. Sawyer sitting at the lunch table with the kids! They act as though he is a celebrity. Joe also makes me feel very welcome as a parent-volunteer. It is amazing to me that he knows every parent's name! I have been a fan since FSS opened."

"We are extremely fortunate to have Mr. Sawyer as the school principal. He cares very deeply for these children and is highly effective at leading the school and maintaining a respectful community."

“Having been a Floral Parent since Floral opened, I feel the environment is positive, the curriculum is challenging, and the teaching staff is great. I’ve had the opportunity to visit other schools (for social events) only to leave these schools with a feeling of happiness that my kids are/were at Floral. I think the structure, the concern for safety and behavior, and the positive, varied learning environment make Floral School a great experience for the students attending!”

“Overall, Joe is a wonderful role model for the children. However, I feel he lacks the strong leadership and vision to push the school into a first class teaching and learning environment. That’s reflected in the generalization of school programs.”

“My son has had a positive experience at FSS. The extended school care (before school) has been very good for my son. He is currently in fourth grade and maintains good relationships with all previous teachers.”

“The 5<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school did not provide a connection with Floral or a connection with the Middle School. Since the physical proximity creates the division, I believe that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade should be incorporated into the Middle School until the old high school construction is complete.”

“We are fortunate to have Joe serve in our school and our community. He has been a great successor for Ellen and we definitely can see him climb “that ladder”.”

“It is evident that you enjoy what you do and take it seriously! Keep up the great work that you do! We look forward to being a part of the Floral Community again next year!”

“I think you do a great job – you just need to smile a little bit more.”

“Always look forward to reading them!” (Question 9 – re: newsletters and updates)

“Mr. Sawyer is a great leader, manager, and advisor. We look forward to having all 3 of our children in the same school under such wonderful leadership.”

"My husband and I are very impressed with Floral School. We are amazed with the swift response to concerns, and the actions that are made through the school. Our children are eager to learn, and enjoy school. We even have children logging onto math sites, that before Floral, would have been unheard of! Congratulations for a job well done, and thank you for your support in our family!"

"Thanks for the excellent job you do with the kids at Floral Street. Your leadership and concern is evident in every aspect of the school, including staff, atmosphere and communication with families. We have enjoyed being a part of the Floral Street Community."

"He always appears at special occasions in the classroom and at the PTO meetings. We have had a wonderful first year at Floral."

"Any function that we have attended at the school has always been attended by Mr. Sawyer as well. He is always greeting and speaking with everyone. I have also seen him outside at parent pick-up and drop off times. He has made himself very visible and easily approachable. As far as I am concerned he is one of the most diligent and concerned principals I have had the pleasure to meet since my children have started school. Keep up the good work, and thank you for a great year!"

"Mr. Sawyer has made a noticeable improvement to Floral Street School. He is always present at every school function and takes an active part in all the activities. Above all, he always acknowledges the parents which is very impressive and makes us all feel that our children are known as individuals. I feel very safe having my children under his supervision."

"Outstanding job"

"Excellent job Joe!!!"

"I would have to say that our family is proud to be part of such a wonderful school! I feel the leadership is a big part of why the school is such a happy, healthy, fun and academically challenging place."

"Awesome job! Thank you for 5 great years!"

“Great Job!”

“Mr. Sawyer is approachable with any concern and is dedicated to helping our children become a considerate and responsible community (member). I admire his leadership skills and practical approach.”

“I have no firsthand knowledge of Mr. Sawyer’s interactions with the children, but my son always speaks highly of Mr. Sawyer.”

“We think you are doing a wonderful job as a principal. Our child loves the school, learns a lot at school, not just the subjects from the books, most importantly, the values of respect and learning. Keep up the good work.”

“Could smile a little more.”

“Mr. Sawyer has done a great job at Floral. I am so glad that my daughter is under his care.”

“You are an excellent principal. Great job!!”

“I am very pleased with Joe’s (and Jane’s) leadership. I’m very lucky to have a great staff in the school district my children attend.”

“Mr. Sawyer not only takes the extra time and effort to attend all school functions, but does so in a confidence building, supportive way to both staff and students. As when he was assistant principal, he maintains a steady presence among the students as well as completing all other responsibilities and demands. He promotes a high standard for self respect and respect for others, both of which are lacking in other school systems and society as a whole. I feel that Mr. Sawyer is one of Shrewsbury’s most exemplary employees and that all possible should be done to deep him in the Shrewsbury School system.”

“Thank you so much for making my daughter feel welcome at her new school. We joined Floral Street in February this year after relocating and researching schools out here. I was considering returning my daughter to a private Montessori, but changed my mind quickly after meeting you and the staff, and touring Floral. I was very impressed with the school’s

entire staff and how you always seemed to find a few moments to stop us and see how we liked our "new school". It made a huge difference to our family and we are (for once) looking forward to next fall."

"Our family is very pleased with Floral Street School. While I'm sure you are responsible for a great deal of the school's success, I'm not sure how to determine what you are directly responsible for or what can be more attributable to the teachers and staff. In addition, I have never seen you directly interact with any of the children so I don't know, for example, if you help students feel positively about school. I did have one concern during the school year that I understand was brought either to your attention or to Mrs. Lizotte's. It was not resolved to my satisfaction." (Note: the concern involved handwashing before lunch).

"I am very happy to have this opportunity to respond to the Principal's survey. My husband and I have nothing but the highest marks for you and your work with the FSS children! As I sit and wait each afternoon for my son, I commend you on your high regard for their safety. You take the time to personally navigate them to their respected buses for a safe trip home. Though all seems hectic, it is never out of control. Perhaps this is due to your willingness to stop and solve a problem, be it big or small. Each individual child is treated with respect and kindness at Floral Street School, and it is a direct reflection of you and your staff. Our son thoroughly embraces school, no doubt due to the dedication of the staff under your leadership. Our first year at Floral could not have been more positive. And as for Question #7, my husband and I would just love to know your and Mrs. Lizotte's secret on how to be so visible and active in the community and yet never appear the least bit tired or frazzled!."